

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Plumas

Applicant: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS)

Project Title: Healthy Trails and Watershed Planning Project

PROJECT GOAL

The Healthy Trails and Watershed Planning Project seeks to provide the planning stage including Design, GIS, and NEPA/CEQA to allow realignment of the connector trail between Little Jamison Creek and Smith Lake and to allow future construction of a bridge across nearby Little Jamison Creek Trail. This poorly designed and erosive yet popular trail connector links heavily used trails within the Lakes Basin Recreation Area (LBRA) and Plumas Eureka State Park (PESP). The location includes numerous lakes and streams feeding into the nearby Middle Fork of the Feather River. The nearby bridge crossing will remove users from the streambed, and prevent trampling of the stream bank and riparian area of one of the most heavily used trails in Plumas County. The current trail alignment is highly erosive due to extreme steepness and poor location within the watershed. The project will provide the planning stage necessary to remove the watercourse from the trail, and return it to its natural location away from the trail. In addition to providing watershed benefits, restoration here would provide significant user benefits as the connector trail is ideally located between two popular hiking areas. PESP and the USFS are cooperating partners on the project as the trail is located within both jurisdictions.

PROJECT SCOPE

The project shall provide the planning required for complete realignment of .7 miles of existing trail connecting Little Jamison Creek and ridge west of Smith Lake. New trail section is predicted to be 1.2 miles long. In addition, planning would be provided to facilitate a bridge crossing Little Jamison Creek. Elements of the plan would include Design, GIS, and NEPA/CEQA for both the trail realignment and the bridge. In addition, a written plan would be created to specify measures taken to decommission .7 miles of old trail, to identify trail design standards, and to plan measures needed to restore streamside damage at planned bridge location.

Hydrologists and engineers from PESP and USFS would participate in NEPA/CEQA process and would approve all trail design and restoration methods. The USFS engineer shall provide bridge design. These services are being provided on an In Kind basis. Additional In Kind services for GIS work is to be provided by SBTS. The SBTS has lengthy experience with the NEPA/CEQA process and has frequently worked with agency specialists including those from hydrology, archaeology, botany and biology.

SBTS uses only “Best Practices” for all trail design and restoration methods. These practices encompass only modern trail design methods as used by professional trail builders and as approved by latest State Park and USFS design criteria. Such methods include moderate grade design, off-sloping of trail tread, and use of rolling dips and grade reversals to keep water off the trail.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The following organizations and individuals support the Lakes Basin Trail and Watershed Restoration project: Plumas Eureka State Park, Plumas National Forest, California State Fish and Game, Plumas County, Eastern Plumas Parks and Recreation, Plumas Corp., Plumas Unified School District, Feather River College, Camps in Common, Keegan Mcauliffe, David Sherertz, Plumas County Museum, Gray Eagle Lodge, Soper Wheeler Co., Hard Core Hikers, Graeagle Community Services District, Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Co-op, C-Road Community Services District, Pangaea Restaurant, and REI.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project initiation: Site visit with specialists from USFS and State Parks. Flagging and GPS of key waypoints including review of watershed impacts and needed prevention/restoration methods.	May/June '09'
Flag and GPS entire new alignment.	June '09
GIS work for project. Written design plans.	July '09
USFS provides Bridge Design and approves location	July '09
Performance review of plans with State Park and USFS. (Includes decommission plans for old trail)	July/August '09
NEPA/CEQA	September/October '09
Final Documents in place and final report to SNC	November '09

SNC PROJECT COSTS

Field Work (Flagging, GPS, Layout): 1.20 Miles @ \$24,000. SNC Share: \$24,000.

NEPA/CEQA and Fish and Game Fee: \$17,200. SNC Share: \$17,200

GIS Mapping, Trail Design Drawings, Reporting: \$6,000. SBTs In Kind Matching Share \$3,000. SNC Share: \$3,000

California State Parks Specialist and Management Review: \$5,000. State Park In Kind Share: \$5,000. SNC Share: \$0

US Forest Service Bridge Design, Specialist and Management Review: \$10,000. USFS Share: \$10,000. SNC Share: \$0

Grand Totals

Total Cost: \$62,200. Matching Share: \$18,000. SNC Share: \$44,200

Notes: Restoration costs include project monitoring in addition to construction related costs.